

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 180706Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8050

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 11752

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, PK, IN

SUBJECT: BHUTTO'S CONCERN OVER PRESS REPORTS FROM INDIA RE
ARMS SUPPLY

1. AS TIME GOES BY, WE ARE BEGINNING TO SEE DOUBTS HERE
THAT ARE DISTURBING AS TO THE REAL INTENTIONS OF THE U.S.
AS REGARDS OUR ARMS SUPPLY POLICY. REPORTS ARE BEING SPREAD
HERE THAT WE HAVE MADE A SECRET "DEAL" WITH INDIA AT THE
EXPENSE OF PAKISTAN.

2. LATE LAST WEEK AGHA SHAHI SAID HE WANTED TO BRING A
MATTER TO MY ATTENTION AT THE SPECIFIC REQUEST OF BHUTTO.
HE SAID THAT BHUTTO HAD NOT FORGOTTEN YOUR MESSAGE TO HIM,
JUST PRIOR TO YOUR VISIT TO DELHI, THAT HE SHOULD NOT
BECOME UNDULY UPSET AT EXPECTED DISTORTIONS IN THE PRESS
THAT MIGHT ARISE OUT OF YOUR TALKS WITH INDIAN OFFICIALS.
BHUTTO SAID HE HAD ACCEPTED THAT ADVICE AND HAD NOT BECOME
CONERNED AT WORRISOME COVERAGE IN THE INDIAN PRESS. BHUTTO
WANTED MY ATTENTION CALLED, HOWEVER, TO AN ARTICLE BY
MURRAY MARDER OF THE WASHINGTON POST, DATED OCTOBER 28,
FROM NEW DELHI. THIS PARTICULAR ARTICLE (WHICH DEEPLY
CONCERNED US HERE JUST PRIOR TO YOUR ARRIVAL) SPEAKS OF YOUR
PRIVATE TALK WITH INDIRA GANDHI, AND THEN STATES AS FOLLOWS:
"AMERICAN DIPLOMATS HERE ARE TELLING INDIA THAT ITS NUCLEAR
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EXPLOSION HAS HEIGHTENED PAKISTANI DEMANDS THAT THE U.S.

RESUME THE SUPPLY
OF CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS WHICH HAS BEEN
RESTRICTED SINCE THE INDIA-PAKISTAN WAR OF 1965. IF INDIA
IS COOPERATIVE ABOUT BARRING THE EXPORT OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY,
AMERICAN DIPLOMATS IMPLY, THE UNITED STATES MAY BE MORE
RESISTANT TO BHUTTO'S APPEALS FOR ARMS." SHAHI SAID THAT
BHUTTO WANTED ME TO KNOW THAT HE WOULD CONSIDER IT SERIOUS
IF AMERICAN DIPLOMATS IN DELHI WERE MAKING SUCH REMARKS
AS QUOTED IN THIS AMERICAN PRESS REPORT. BHUTTO HAD TOLD
SHAHI THAT HE HOPED I WOULD REPORT HIS CONCERN TO YOU.

3. I TOLD SHAHI I WOULD INDEED DO SO, BUT IN THE MEANTIME
WOULD MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS: 1) THIS PARTICULAR QUOTE
WAS INCONSISTENT WITH YOUR OWN REMARKS WHILE HERE
TO BHUTTO, AND THAT I THOUGHT YOUR DIRECT WORDS SHOULD
BE WHAT COUNTED; 2) FOREIGN MINISTER CHAVAN OF INDIA
HAD PUBLICLY INDICATED THAT THE QUESTION OF U.S. MILITARY
SUPPLY TO PAKISTAN WAS AN ITEM UPON WHICH AGREEMENT HAD NOT
BEEN REACHED. I ALSO SAID THAT I KNEW IT TO BE A FACT THAT YOU
WERE IRRITATED AT THE TIME OF YOUR ARRIVAL HERE OVER SOME
OF THE REPORTING OF THE AMERICAN PRESS RE YOUR STOP-OVER
IN DELHI.

4. PERHAPS EVEN MORE DAMAGING IN THE LONG-RUN IS A REPORT
TO DAO FROM A RELIABLE SOURCE OF REMARKS MADE BY A SENIOR
OFFICIAL OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE IN A SECRET LECTURE HERE
LAST WEEK BEFORE THE NATIONAL DEFENSE COLLEGE. HE REPORTEDLY
DESCRIBED PAK-U.S. RELATIONS AS BEING DEFINITELY "NOT ON THE
UPSWING." HE WENT ON TO EXPLAIN IN HIS LECTURE THAT THE
BAD SIGNS HAD COME IN CONNECTION WITH YOUR TRIP TO SOUTH
ASIA. HE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THEY HAD INFORMATION THAT
JUST BEFORE YOUR TRIP AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE HAD LEARNED
THAT SEVERAL ARAB COUNTRIES HAD REQUESTED INDIAN TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE IN THEIR NUCLEAR PROGRAMS. HE SAID THAT WHILE
YOU WERE IN DELHI, YOU WERE ABLE TO PERSUADE INDIRA GANDHI NOT
TO PROVIDE SUCH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, BUT IN RETURN HAD
PROMISED HER THAT THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGE IN THE ARMS
EMBARGO POLICY AGAINST PAKISTAN. THIS IS REPORTED
TO HAVE MADE QUITE AN IMPACT, AS INDEED IT WOULD ON
THE AUDIENCE.

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5. IT IS ANNOYING TO HAVE OUR POLICY VIEWED WITH SUCH
SUSPICION BY SOME PAKS (AS IT IS UNDOUBTEDLY BY SOME INDIANS)
BUT IN MATTERS WHICH HAVE TO DO WITH THE OTHER NEITHER
PAKISTAN NOR INDIA IS ENTIRELY RATIONAL. I SUPPOSE
THAT IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS THE ONLY THING THAT WILL STILL
THESE SUSPICIONS IS A CHANGE IN THE POLICY ITSELF. YOU KNOW
HOW I FEEL ABOUT THE ISSUE AND I WON'T BELABOR IT HERE; OUR

DECISION IN ANY EVENT SHOULD NOT BE AFFECTED BY WHAT THE
PAKS MAY OR MAY NOT THINK WE TOLD THE INDIANS IN DELHI.
BUT I DO THINK IT IMPORTANT FOR US TO REMAIN CURRENT ON
WHAT IS ON THE MIND OF BHUTTO (AND OTHER PAKS) IN CONNECTION
WITH THE ONE IMPORTANT BILATERAL PROBLEM THE U.S. FACES
HERE.
BYROADE

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